

AKRON BMW

Newsletter of the BMW Motorcycle Club of Akron May 2007



Editor's Corner

Once again, apologies are in order. You had to wait until June for the May newsletter and it was all my fault. Not on purpose have I been late, however. Rather, the month of May went by quite fast and I just didn't have the time to sit down and put together things of interest for the Club. Even now, as I write this, I am sitting in an airplane flying back from Germany - while Cindy is slouched down in her seat next to me with a splitting headache.

We are on our way back home from a trip to the Old World which, this time, included a great motorcycle riding weekend. While it began with an unpleasant surprise as the bike that we originally reserved well in advance was suddenly not available and we had to scramble to find an adequate replacement on short notice, everything eventually turned out great. It was a company-sponsored ride and we got a fine group of almost 40 bikes together. One thing that strikes anyone from the U.S. immediately when riding with a group in Europe, is the diversity of the bikes. There is virtually no brand-blindness. While in the U.S., the BMW riders keep among themselves, same as the Goldwingers and the Harley riders, in Europe everybody brings what they have. And while there may be a little razzing of the guy who shows up with a 1958 Panhead with open primary, it is all in good fun and nobody deems himself above the other. Wish we would have that here.

It seems like the riding season is suddenly upon us and most have firm plans on how to divide the available days among the various rallies and meetings. The BMW OA National is all too soon and hopefully we will get a few Sunday rides in together. If you have any ideas or wishes for the newsletter, talk to me!

Ride Safe Mike



Our Spring Poker Run, named *Sonny Cargill Memorial Ride* in honor of our long-time club member and past president drew "only" some 125 participants. Most certainly due to the bad weather forecast which had called for morning rain...that never came. One more reason to have another event in the fall. For now, thanks are in order to Tom Cargill, who organized a great event almost single-handedly!



New BMW 450GS Spectators at a recent German Enduro championship race were surprised by a black prototype bike listed as entered by BMW AG, ridden by 3-time German champion Sascha Eckert. Closer inspection unveiled a 450cc single with an interesting swingarm design: Swingarm axle and counter sprocket shaft share the same center. This means, suspension movement will not affect the drive chain. The bike is said to come with about 60hp and it seems BMW will be a serious contender in this segment.



Did you know...

50 years ago, 28 year old Bob McIntyre from Scotstown near Glasgow won both Junior- and Senior-TT on the Isle of Man. On Friday, June 7, he was the first rider ever to finish a lap (37.75 miles) with an average speed above 100 mph. He achieved this atop a full-faired 4-cyl Gilera factory racer.

Also, **50 years ago**, during the International Auto Show (IAA) in Frankfurt, BMW presented the new subcompact car BMW 600. The air-cooled two-cylinder boxer motor came from the R67 motorcycle and, in a detuned form, had an output of just 20 hp

30 years ago, BMW **lowered** the price for the R100RS from slightly over 11,000 German Marks by almost 10%

Also, **30 years ago**, a German company in the business of making protective headgear for mining and other industries began to co-operate with BMW to make motorcycle helmets. The company was Schubert and this eventually led to the invention of the flip-open helmet design.

And, **30 years ago**, BMW finds almost 3 mm more bore for the R75/7 and phasing it out, they introduce the R80 series.

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